# THE GUIDE







# MISSION

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission is dedicated to providing recreational and cultural activities for all people in our neighborhoods and the whole community. We believe that by enhancing people's personal health and wellness, we strengthen and enrich the lives of our citizens and build a spirit of community in our City.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Many children, some now adults, can recount and reminisce about recreation activities that made a difference in their lives.

- Maria Pesante, Millvale Community Council

1	About CRC		
3	Community Activities		
5	Regional Destinations		
7	Athletics		
C1	City of Cincinnati		

Center Map ~ Pull-Out
C2 Program Grid

8 Aquatics9 Therapeutics10 Seniors

11 Timeline & History of CRC13 Recreation Centers Listings

15 Leadership



## ABOUT CRC



Each year, millions of people visit CRC's recreational facilities and enjoy many CRC programs at indoor recreation centers and outdoor play areas. CRC offers athletic leagues, dedicated programs for seniors and youth, therapeutic and inclusive programs for persons with disabilities, before- and after-school programs, summer day camps, special public events and volunteer opportunities.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission offers a wide variety of recreational facilities in the City of Cincinnati, including recreation centers, aquatic facilities and 2500+ acres of outdoor athletic and playground areas. In addition, tennis attractions and premiere public golf courses make CRC a top notch organization. CRC even commissions public artwork for the city to enjoy!

With its many public recreation opportunities, CRC is an award-winning organization. Cincinnati Recreation Commission has won two (2) National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal awards and certifications from the parks and recreation industry.

In addition to Cincinnati Recreation Commission's national recognition, CRC has also been recognized statewide with multiple Ohio Parks and Recreation Association awards for CRC outdoor spaces, parks and programs.

CRC is the first large urban recreation department in the State of Ohio to receive national accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). CAPRA accreditation is a self-assessment and peer review process that evaluates a public agency's operations based on national standards for quality operations.





Established in 1927, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission provides recreational, cultural, leisure and educational activities for Cincinnatians of all ages and abilities. CRC's network of recreation and senior centers, pools, golf courses and other facilities is vital for Cincinnati's continuing industry growth and leadership.

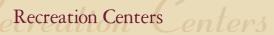


# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Play Areas reas

Where would we be without play? Playtime and funtime are necessary parts of life - parts that adults don't always think about, but children do.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission provides more than 100 play areas citywide in which to capture the smiles of children and the grownups who love them. CRC playgrounds offer safe places to play, climb, slide or swing — and they're all over the city. With transfer platforms, wheelchair ramps and other accessible play components, CRC playgrounds exceed state requirements for accessibility and safety.



Cincinnati Recreation Commission knows how to have fun, and CRC recreation centers are the places to go! The recreation centers are neighborhood gathering spots which offer diverse programs. Neighborhood recreation centers provide programs and activities that encourage imagination for any age.

CRC recreation center activities include individuals with disabilities by working with the CRC Therapeutics Division. For more information on CRC Therapeutics, see page 13.





The twisty slide is my favorite at the CRC playground. - Mary Landon, age 6

CRC recreation centers are the epicenter of play in Cincinnati. CRC centers boast the following...

### memberships

at affordable rates

#### activities

from board games and basketball to holiday parties and tutoring

### daycamps

which are held before-school, after-school and in the summer

#### amenities

including teen lounges, theaters, gymnasiums, computer labs, dance studios and art rooms

#### classes

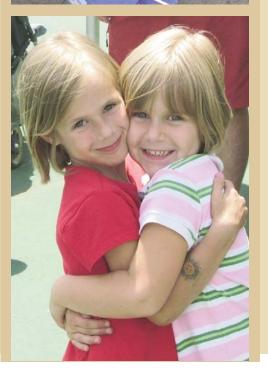
from yoga and line dancing to martial arts and jewelry making

#### fitness centers

featuring exercise equipment and free weights











Cincinnati Recreation Commission has a number of facilities throughout the City that are regional in nature - they are not just "neighborhood oriented", but attract people from other cities, areas and communities.

#### Sawyer Point

Located along the shore of the Ohio River just south of Downtown Cincinnati, this mile-long linear park sits atop a former scrap yard. The construction of Sawyer Point was aided by contributions from many organizations, foundations and individuals. As you stroll through the park, you will find many areas and gardens named after major funding contributors.

Opened during Cincinnati's 200th anniversary celebration in 1988, Sawyer Point's unique design and its eye-catching landscapes accent the Procter & Gamble Performance Pavilion which hosts many free summer concerts. Also in the park are amenities such as:

- Concourse Fountain outdoor tennis courts
- sand volleyball courts accessible playground
- concessions
- fishing piers
- boat ramps
- rowing center
- bike rentals
- public artworks

Convenient low-cost parking is available at the main entrance, located at 801 East Pete Rose Way and Eggleston Avenue.

### The Showboat Majestic

The Showboat *Majestic*, a 75-year-old sternwheeler, is the last original floating theater and is permanently moored within Sawyer Point at Cincinnati's Public Landing. The Showboat provides first-class entertainment for all of Cincinnati with its full season of musicals, comedies and other entertainment.

CRC embraces the arts with Showboat Majestic shows, the Procter & Gamble Performance Pavilion and a community theater featuring spectacular summer shows. Many of our recreation centers also offer instruction in dance, drama and music for all ages.



## REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

## Dunham Recreation Complex

The Otto Armleder Memorial Regional Aquatics Center at Dunham Recreation Complex is located on the Dunham campus and delights children and adults with its slides, water features and zero-depth entry pool. The Dunham Arts Building houses classes for youth and adults as well as a community theater, printmaking and pottery facilities. The Dunham Recreation Center is the center of operations for the Complex. Day camps, arts and crafts, preschool activities and all staffing operations take place in the center.

The Dunham Recreation Complex features a recreation center, dedicated arts building and many acres of landscape which include a playground, walking trail, golf course, shelter, sand volleyball courts, pool and deluxe water play area, ball field and more.

## Lunken Airport Playfield

Lunken Airport Playfield is home to premier outdoor tennis courts, an 18-hole, par -3 golf course and driving range, the Land of Make Believe Playground, a 6.5-mile walking/biking trail and the covered Spirit of '76 Pavilion shelter. CRC tennis courts are played by youth, adults, amateurs and enthusiasts alike. Each year, many tennis tournaments are played on Lunken's courts. Reeves Golf Course provides sporting enjoyment for adults and youth who play rounds on the course and hit balls at the driving range. The covered Spirit of '76 Pavilion is available for rental for all types of gatherings such as company picnics, family reunions and get-togethers with friends.

Parents of playground-age children can rest easy in the Land of Make Believe Playground. With a fenced-in play area complete with swings, slides, mazes, concessions and an air-conditioned entrance, kids enjoy their time at Lunken just as much as their parents do.

### Otto Armleder Memorial Park & Recreation Complex

Located on Cincinnati's East Side, Otto Armleder Park is 350 acres of Cincinnati's best outdoor green space. Armleder Park's amenities include bike and walking trails, a dog park, open meadows, playsets, championship soccer fields and a covered shelter complete with grills and fireplace. Armleder Park provides access to the Little Miami Scenic River for recreational boating as well as open and relaxing views of surrounding hillsides. Otto Armleder Park is jointly operated by CRC, Cincinnati Park Board and Hamilton County Park District.

/<sub>5</sub>

## ATHLETICS

Everybody likes a good sport, and CRC has many sports for all ages.

Baseball is one of America's favorite sports and CRC has one of the country's largest programs for adults and youth. The baseball program features national tournaments and recreational play. CRC partners with the Cincinnati Reds and the Cincinnati Knothole Association to provide baseball for everyone.

Softball leagues run in the spring, summer and fall seasons. Co-rec, men's and women's leagues are played at various fields throughout the city. All leagues and officials are USSSA sanctioned and certified.

Ready for 3-on-3 tournament action or a weekly discounted senior and youth rates. game of hoops? CRC's year-round basketball program offers leagues for men, women and youth. Special events include an All-Star game and a Slam Dunk contest.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission partners with the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals and attracts serious athletes as well as recreational players. Bengals' sponsored Flag and Tag leagues are USFTL sanctioned and run year-round.

## CRC Golf Courses

**Avon Fields** 4081 Reading Rd. California 5920 Kellogg Ave. Dunham 1951 Dunham Way **Glenview** 

CRC offers many tennis activities that allow you to take a swing. CRC's tennis lessons, camps, leagues and tournaments take place on more than 100 courts throughout the city.

Volleyball anyone? CRC offers year-round leagues for men's, women's and co-rec teams. Leagues play on indoor courts in the cold weather, and sand courts in the summer months.

CRC golf courses and driving ranges help you steady your swing and practice your putts. Our courses offer computerized handicapping, driving ranges, group or private lessons and clinics and completely adapted golf for those with disabilities. CRC golf also offers junior golf programs, leagues and tournaments as well as



#### 281-0322 **Neumann** 7215 Bridgetown Rd. 574-1320 4747 Playfield Ln. 321-2740 321-6513 **Reeves** 251-1157 **Woodland** 5820 Muddy Creek Rd. 451-4408 10965 Springfield Pike 771-1747 **Tee Time Reservation #** 651-GOLF (651-4665)

# CITY of CINCINNATI

On the next three pages, you will find a grid listing of CRC's centers and programs as well as a map detailing locations of CRC facilities. Please feel free to detach the map from this magazine in order to locate the recreation center or CRC facility nearest you.

Nestled among the hills of the Ohio River Valley, the City of Cincinnati has the personality and charm of an Old World city, complemented by the stature of a world class business center. Cincinnati is home to major sports teams including the Cincinnati Reds (MLB) and Cincinnati Bengals (NFL), as well as events like Kids' Fest, the oldest free kids' event in the country and Riverfest, the longest running fireworks display on the Ohio River.

As a department of the City of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission plays a vital role in the city's decision making process with a CRC mayor-appointed commissioner. In addition to utilizing tax payer dollars, CRC facilities offer affordable memberships. Some may charge competitive rates for programming.

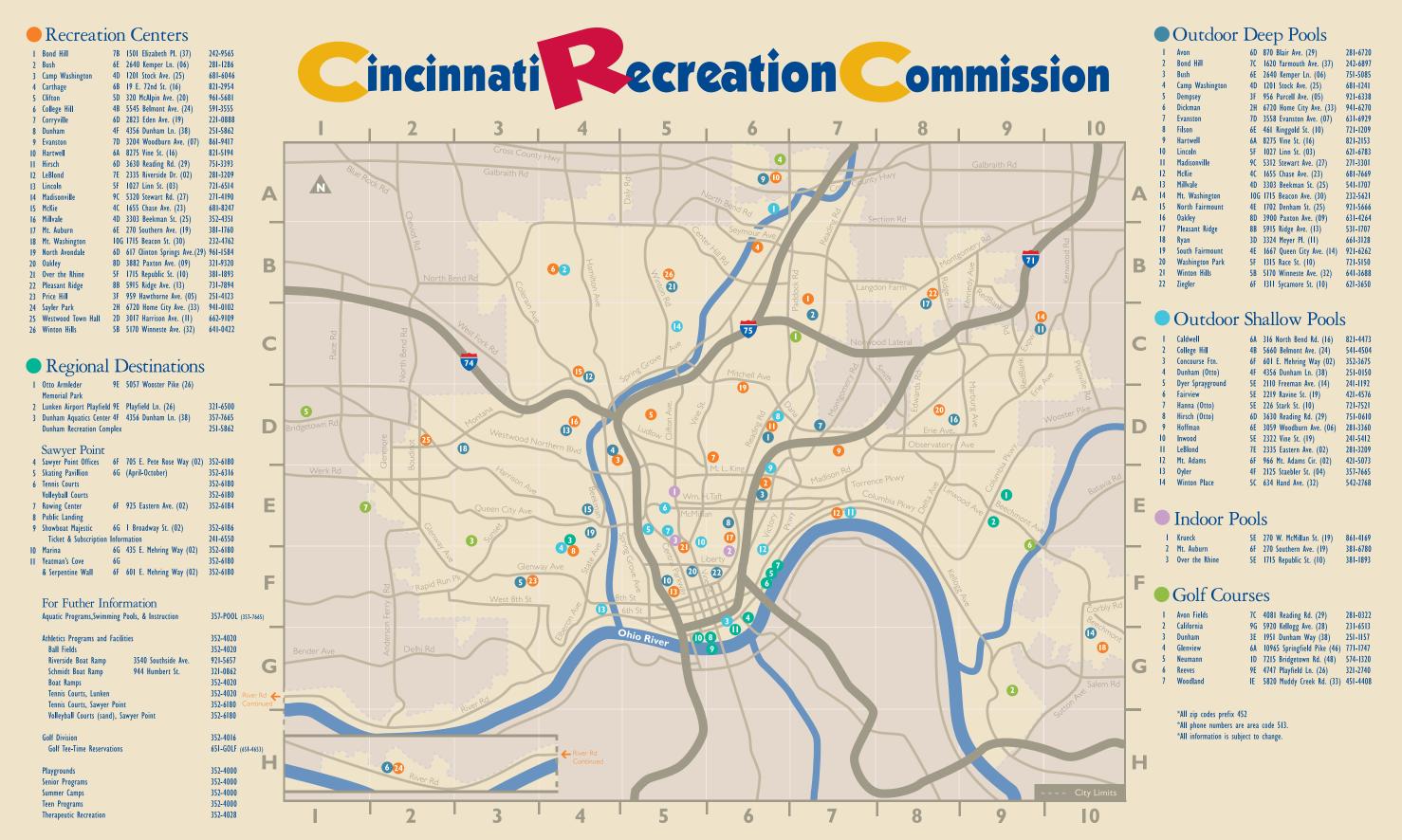
#### Cincinnati Became a City in 1790

Through many 18th Century negotiations, land purchases and aspirations, Governor St. Clair, the first formal Congress-appointed governor of the Northwest Territory, declared the land "lying to the north of the Ohio River and bounded by the two Miamis on the east and west" to be named "Cincinnati". Our City is so named in honor of the Society of the Cincinnati, an association of former officers of the Continental Army.

The city's professional staff, beautiful surroundings and quality CRC programming, combine to ensure Cincinnati Recreation Commission is there where it counts — with neighborhood recreation centers. And we've been a great neighbor.

66 CRC programs really do include everyone. ??

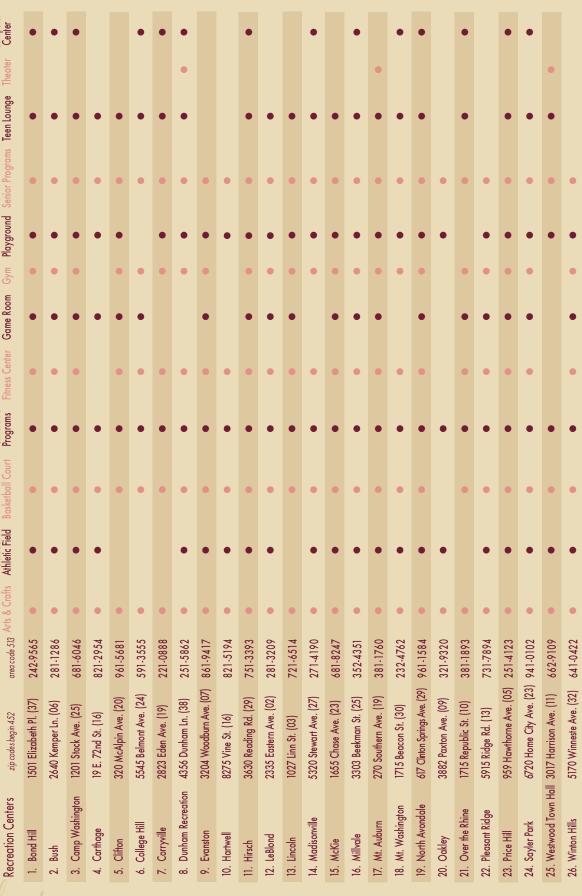
- Janet Lewis, mother of two



www.cincyrec.org

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission is dedicated to providing recreational and cultural activities for all people in our neighborhoods and the whole community. We believe that by enhancing people's personal health and wellness, we strengthen and enrich the lives of our citizens and build a spirit of community in our City.







# AQUATICS

Recreation is simply not complete without water and Cincinnati Recreation Commission provides many opportunities to enjoy pools throughout the City. In fact, CRC has more pools per capita than any other city nationwide. CRC's award-winning aquatics program provides fun, safe and quality aquatic programs for residents and visitors. CRC operates a mixture of deep- and shallow-water pools, indoor and outdoor pools and spray grounds.

Neighborhood pools offer hours of water fun, double as water classrooms, and even provide summer jobs. During the summer season, CRC aquatic facilities provide hours of open swim and programming opportunities such as the Guard Start program which employs local youth.

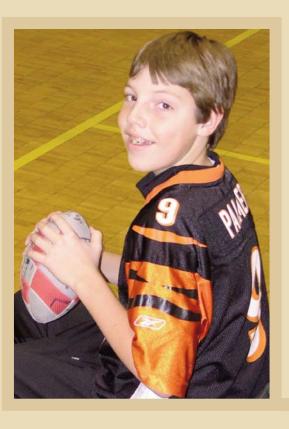
CRC is proud to offer a complete adapted-aquatic program for individuals with disabilities. The Aquatics Division also offers year-round swim lessons for all ages, youth swim teams, American Red Cross/lifeguard training and swim-stroke clinics.



## THERAPEUTICS

Created in 1968, our Therapeutic Recreation Division is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in programs for individuals with disabilities. The programs offered by CRC's Therapeutic Recreation Division meet the needs and interests of individuals with mental, physical, learning and emotional disabilities. As an advocate for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities, all individuals are invited to participate in any CRC program.

Adapted and inclusive programs include aquatics, fitness, social gatherings, bowling leagues, instructional and team sports, wheelchair sports, crafts, dances and special events. Enjoy special outings, movie and pizza nights and miracle league baseball.



## SENIORS

CRC senior programs offer a wide selection of activities for those aged 50 and older such as aerobics, sports, crafts and dance — something to fit every lifestyle. Activities take place within CRC Recreation Centers. With the center membership, seniors are entitled to all of the activities and amenities offered within the center. These active adults know how to have a good time!

CRC activity for seniors continues each year with the Southwest Ohio Senior Olympics. Since 1992, this fun and challenging program has promoted healthy lifestyle choices and is open to athletes ages 50 and older. Events include golf, swimming, tennis, track & field and many more.

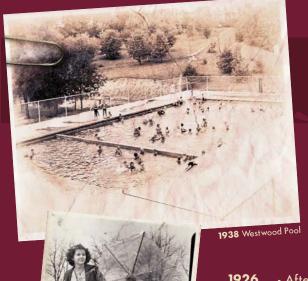
Since 1968, CRC has sponsored the annual Senior Citizen Hall of Fame honoring Hamilton County seniors. More than 1,500 seniors, aged 60+, have been inducted. This event brings together the Cincinnati community to recognize the benefits and talents of its extraordinary senior citizens.

As part of the CRC family, seniors can take part in congregate meals at many CRC centers. These meals combine lunch and social activity and are just one more reason why seniors can play, relax and learn at Cincinnati Recreation Commission neighborhood centers.

## Senior Meal Site Locations

Beechwood Seniors	330 Forest Ave. (29)	281-2346	
<b>Bush Seniors</b>	2640 Kemper Ln. (06)	281-1286	
Lincoln Seniors	1027 Linn St. (03)	421-2804	Ties insulation
Madisonville Seniors	5320 Stewart Rd. (27)	271-4190	
McKie Seniors	1655 Chase Ave. (23)	681-6952	
Oakley Seniors	3882 Paxton Ave. (09)	321-9407	
Pinecrest Seniors	3951 W. Eighth St. (05)	921-8922	
Price Hill Seniors	949 Hawthorne Ave. (05)	251-0279	
Stanley Rowe Seniors	1621 Linn St. (14)	721-5682	
Senior Olympics Information		421-5222	
Senior Hall of Fame Information		352-4000	
	Jack.		

nie  $t_0$ 



## HISTORY

CRC has seen a world at war, a baby boom, man landing on the moon, a world coming to grips with new technology and a new millenium. Cincinnati Recreation Commission has remained steady through it all.

1926 • After a unanimous vote by City Council on May 26, an ordinance is passed creating a Public Recreation Commission.

1927 • CRC begins providing programs for Cincinnati residents.

• Will R. Reeves becomes the first CRC Director (1927-1931).

• Avon Fields Golf Course (built in 1911) becomes a CRC property.

1931 • Depression hits the country, and despite economic c.1940 CRC campers enjoy a conditions, CRC's infrastructure doubles

**1932** • Tam Deering becomes CRC director. (1932-1945)

1938 • The Airport Playfield opens.

1943 • Lincoln Recreation Center opens — this is the first newly-constructed CRC center.

1945 • Herb A. Davis begins a 22-year tenure as CRC Director (1945–1967).

• CRC perseveres under war conditions while the majority of CRC's staff of supervisors were called to duty through the Armed Forces or other war agencies and industries.

1967 • Bret J. McGinnis becomes CRC director (1967–1980).

1968 • In honor of CRC's seniors, the Senior Hall of Fame honors its first class of inductees.

1970 • CRC adds to its facilities with 21 pools, 15 recreation centers, 25 playgrounds and two (2) golf courses.

• CRC is judged one of the top five (5) recreation programs in the US.

1971 • CRC receives the National Gold Medal Award

1977 • Held at Sawyer Point, Riverfest becomes the largest single-day event in the country.

• Ronald W. Chase begins a 17-year tenure as CRC director (1980–1997).

1988 • CRC dedicates Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point to the citizens of Cincinnation This beautiful park on the river's edge celebrates Cincinnati's rich history.

1991 • Cincinnati Recreation Commission establishes a major entertainment venue as it begins management of the Showboat Majestic.

1992 • The first Cincinnati Recreation Commission Senior Olympics is held.

1995 • CRC hosts the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Congress.

1997 • CRC wins its second National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation • CRC wins NRPA's Excellence in Aquatics Award.

1998 • Wayne Bain becomes CRC Director (1998–2000).

James Garges becomes CRC Director (2001–2007).

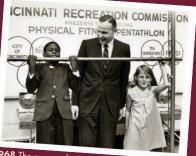
2005 • CRC becomes the first large urban Ohio recreation department to receive accreditation by the national Commission on Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies.

**2007** • Dr. Norman C. Merrifield becomes CRC Director (2007–present). • Happy 80th Birthday, CRC!

2008 • Sawyer Point celebrates its 20th year of rockin' on the river.

· Cincinnatians have enjoyed 40 years of CRC's Therapeutic Recreation Division.

for Excellence in Park and Recreation Administration.



participates in the Physical Fitness







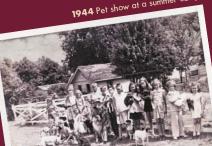


























## RECREATION CENTERS



Bond Hill

1501 Elizabeth Place Cincinnati, OH 45237 (513)242–9565



**Evanston** 

3204 Woodburn Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45207 (513)861–9417



Mt. Auburn

270 Southern Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45219 (513)381–1760



**Westwood Town Hall** 

3017 Harrison Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45211 (513)662–9109



Bush

2640 Kemper Lane Cincinnati, OH 45206 (513)281–1286



Hartwell

8275 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45216 (513)821–5194



Mt. Washington

1715 Beacon Street Cincinnati, OH 45230 (513)232–4762



**Winton Hills** 

5170 Winneste Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45232 (513)641-0422



**Camp Washington** 

1201 Stock Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45225 (513)681–6046



Hirsch

3630 Reading Road Cincinnati, OH 45229 (513)751–3393



**North Avondale** 

617 Clinton Springs Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45229 (513)961–1584



**Carthage** 

19 East 72nd Street Cincinnati, OH 45216 (513)821–2954



LeBlond

2335 Riverside Drive Cincinnati, OH 45202 (513)281–3209



Oakley

3882 Paxton Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45209 (513)321–9320



Clifton

320 McAlpin Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45220 (513)961–5681



Lincoln

1027 Linn Street Cincinnati, OH 45203 (513)721–6514



**Over the Rhine** 

1715 Republic Street Cincinnati, OH 45210 (513)381–1893



**College Hill** 

5545 Belmont Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45224 (513)591–3555



Madisonville

5320 Stewart Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45227 (513)271–4190



**Pleasant Ridge** 

5915 Ridge Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45213 (513)731–7894



Corryville

2823 Eden Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45219 (513)221–0888



**McKie** 

1655 Chase Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45223 (513)681–8247



**Price Hill** 

959 Hawthorne Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45205 (513)251–4123



Dunham

4356 Dunham Lane Cincinnati, OH 45238 (513) 251-5862



Millvale

3303 Beekman Street Cincinnati, OH 45225 (513)352-4351



**Sayler Park** 

6720 Home City Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45233 (513)941-0102

For more information about CRC and its programs visit WWW.cincyrec.org or call CRC's InfoLine at (513)352-4000

## LEADERSHIP

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission is a policy-setting, independent board of five (5) members that bring quality recreation programming to Cincinnati.

The Director of the Recreation Department reports to the Commission, which includes one (1) Park Board member, one (1) Cincinnati Board of Education member, an at-large Youth Commissioner and three Mayor-appointed members. The Commission holds monthly public meetings and is responsible for setting CRC policy. Funding for CRC comes from a combination of tax-payer dollars and revenue-generating programs. The departmental budget is allocated and approved by Cincinnati City Council.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation, established in 1996, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to enhance the quality of life for Cincinnati citizens. The major role of the Foundation, and its volunteer Board of Directors, is to supplement the services offered by Cincinnati Recreation Commission. In order to provide superior quality services, the Foundation graciously accepts tax-deductible donations which have a direct and immediate impact on the city of Cincinnati.

Call Cincinnati Recreation Commission at 352-4000 to get involved.

I hope CRC is around for a long time, so my kids and their kids can benefit as much as I have!

- Jake Lawson, age 17

## **City of Cincinnati**

Mark Mallory, Mayor
David C. Crowley, Vice Mayor
Jeff Berding, Council Member
Chris Bortz, Council Member
Y. Laketa Cole, Council Member
John Cranley, Council Member
Leslie Ghiz, Council Member
Chris Monzel, Council Member
Roxanne Qualls, Council Member
Cecil Thomas, Council Member
Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager

#### **Cincinnati Recreation Commission**

Kazava Smith, President Michael J. Moeddel, Vice President Dawn Denno Roscoe A. Fultz Catherine D. Ingram Brittany Robinson, Youth Member

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D., Director Michael A. Thomas, Superintendent Stephen J. Pacella, PGA, Superintendent

## **Acknowledgements**

Lisa Kruse & Bunny Arszman, copy & editing Stephanni Cohen, graphic design & photography Printed by United Graphics Printing

Special thanks to Sandy McGlasson and the University of Cincinnati DAAP Co-op Program. Especially the following students for their dedication to excellence in graphic design & photography:
P. Gage Burke

P. Gage Burke
Mel Bruner
Kelsey Coburn
Angela lacobucci
Rosie Landon
Amber LaRosa
Elisabeth Quallen

